CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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Vol. 30, No. 44 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | February 18th, 1939

Digest Royal Visit Special April Edition !

Famous Players Minority Shareholders Bringing Action

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. Said "War In March"

"Made for Each Other" - "Jesse James" Pictures The Fans Will Applaud

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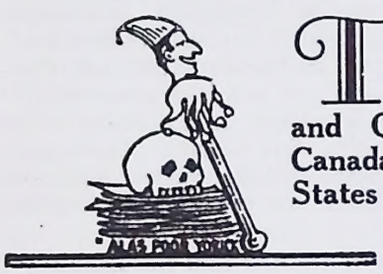
THE DIGEST ROYAL VISIT SOUVENIR NUMBER



THE coming visit of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada and the United States is a history-making event.

The Digest has received recognition and commendation for the Special Royal Editions which it has published on the occasions of the late King's Jubilee, The Memorial Number, The Coronation Number, etc.

Letters have come to The Digest editor from the private secretary of the late King, from the private secretary of the Queen Mother, from the private secretary of the reigning King, the private secretaries of the Duke of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester, from Prime Ministers, statesmen, editors of newspapers in Canada and Great Britain, from the secretary of the President of the United States and Mrs. Roosevelt, from ambassadors, statesmen, public officials, members of parliament, educational and religious institutions, etc., etc.

Such recognition is the best indication of our ability to present suitable material for a Digest Royal Visit Souvenir Number, and in a presentation form of becoming dignity.

We esteem it a privilege to publish a Digest Royal Visit Souvenir Number, and beg the co-operation of the entire Moving Picture Industry in making this Royal Visit Souvenir Number expressive of the best in Motion Pictures.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

MAY we be excused for a degree of pride in respect to the government policy likely to be introduced as it relates itself to News Reels recording the Royal Visit to Canada. A recent editorial published in The Digest, which made certain suggestions in respect to the News Reel policy as this affected American News Reel companies and Canadian, we have been unofficially told, has been taken under consideration. A special committee is to be formed, said committee to exercise jurisdiction in the matter of Royal News Reels; and American and Canadian companies will receive equal facilities for the taking of the best pictures, the purpose being that this Royal Event in Canadian and American history may be properly recorded and may receive the widest public distribution and exhibition.

It has always been the policy of The Digest to serve the Industry as a whole; and this demonstration of our Service is but a recent example of how we serve. Service with a smile is nearly a quarter of a century old.

The Motion Picture Industry has on numerous occasions had the honour of Royal and distinguished patronage in connection with the presentation of British and American Films.

During a visit to Canada of Anna Neagle, British film star, and Herbert Wilcox, producer of "Victoria The Great", the latter picture which received world-wide distribution through RKO Radio's distributing organization, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie-King, personally welcomed the British star, and attended the premiere performance at Ottawa, in company with other Canadian and American Government officials and dignitaries.

Anna Neagle has had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Her latest picture, "Sixty Glorious Years" received the Royal Patronage for its production. The Lord High Chamberlain granted to its producer special permission, for the first time in Film History, to take actual scenes for a film at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Windsor Castle and Balmoral Castle. The presentation of Queen Victoria upon the screen was the first time that such permission had been given: and this permission came through Royal Interest in the Power of The Screen!

(*Continued on Page* 10)

Famous Players Minority Shareholders Bringing Action

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. Prophesied "War In March"

Ray Presents

A MINORITY Shareholder of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, that is the interests represented by H. W. Phelan, has issued a writ through MacDonell & Boland of the City of Toronto, against Famous Players Canadian Corp. Ltd., Charles D. Hillies, Eugene W. Leake and Charles E. Richardson, Trustees of Paramount-Publix Corporation.

I have been subpoenaed to appear at a hearing set down for Monday, Feb. 20th, in the Supreme Court of Ontario, and since being subpoenaed I have tried to find out why the Canadian Trustees of the Famous Players Canadian Voting Trust Certificates, were not subpoenaed.

It appears that H. W. Phelan was a minority shareholder at the time of the proposed transfer of shares between Famous Players Canadian and Paramount-Publix. Mr. Phelan being a solicitor, represented about fifteen thousand dollars worth of shares, belonging to his clients, or to himself.

It also appears that at that time a Minority Protective Association was formed, but neither Mr. Phelan nor his interests were then interested, and subsequently they did exchange some, or all of their shares for Paramount-Publix.

Ray Lewis and a few others refused to exchange their shares.

MR. N. L. NATHANSON was a large shareholder at that time. When the investigation under Commissioner White was proposed, to investigate the exchange of shares, Mr. Nathanson was in Florida, and eight years later he is again in Florida, curiously enough both times during periods of grave concern as to the control of Famous Players Canadian.

Perhaps this period in the destiny of Famous Players Canadian and its parent company, Paramount-Publix, is even more important than it was eight years ago, for at that time the trustees of the Voting Trust Agreement still had years before them with voting rights of the shareholders vested in them, whereas, the first week in March of this year, this trusteeship power is dissolved.

Mr. Adolph Zukor is in England, so he cannot be subpoenaed. I do not know where Mr. I. W. Killam is. The trouble back of the present action does not concern itself with the officers of the Famous Players, but with the trustees of Paramount-Publix. At the time of the exchange of Canadian shares for Paramount-Publix, was there a trusteeship for Paramount? Was this exchange not previous to the receivership which preceded the trusteeship?

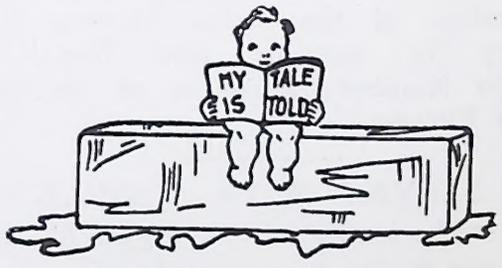
IN a recent issue of The Digest we published an interview with Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., headed "Vanderbilt's Filthy Rich". If you have been reading your newspapers lately, news and editorials, and not just the comic strips, you will have observed that Germany has purchased an island called Kotka, from Finland. The press calls this island, "Germany's Gibraltar". Other purchases include certain territories close to Kronstadt, the latter one of Russia's most important sea bases.

On March 6th, it is believed that Germany's warlike preparations will reach the full limit which Hitler thinks necessary for frightening Great Britain and France into giving away.

Vanderbilt said "War in March". Last September, following the Munich Pirate Pact in which Czechoslovakia was thrown to the wolves, WE DID NOT CHEER for the Pact, nor did we express any faith in the alleged peace, so dearly purchased.

"Mad as a March Hare" is the Nazi regime; where will it lead its country? Where will it lead the world? Of one thing I am certain, DEMOCRACY WILL WIN! And this time there will be a new masterpiece painted, "Democracy's Watch on the Rhine".

Two British pictures have had Toronto premieres this week. Gabriel Pascal's production of Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion", directed by Anthony Asquith and Leslie Howard, and Gilbert and Sullivan's (need we mention this?) "The Mikado", that world-famous musical comedy produced in colour and which Universal is distributing in Canada. Next week we will talk about these pictures, as this week we are crowded for space. Next week we will also discuss the question, "Does National Film Advertising Pay?" Watch for your copy of The Digest.



Geoffrey Toye's Production of "The Mikado", Filmed In Technicolor, Has North American Premiere, Uptown, Toronto. S.R.O.

THEATRES MAY BUILD NEAR CHURCHES, SAYS TORONTO BOARD OF CONTROL

ON January 9th of this year, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, through an Order-in-Council, declared in force Section 19 of the Theatre and Cinematographs Act of this province. The section referred to, states that the Council of a municipal corporation may pass by-laws prohibiting the erection of any theatre within 200 feet of a church or place of worship. The matter was brought before the Board of Control in Toronto early last week, and under the leadership of Controller Fred Hamilton, the Board turned thumbs down on the proposed by-law, in the following official language: "The Board of Control do not concur in the foregoing and recommend that the clause be struck out and referred back to the Committee on Property for further consideration."

Said His Worship, Mayor Day, "I don't think it is within the power of City Council to do it. Why should we restrict the use of some man's property because a church or place of worship is close by?" He also cites an instance where the city owns property nearby a church and if the city wishes to sell it for theatre purposes it could not be so used. Controller Fred Hamilton, who was most strongly opposed to the measure said, "I'm not going to support it. We're forcing the theatres to provide parking places as it is, isn't that enough?"

In an interview with Controller Hamilton, The Digest learned that although it had been referred back to the Property Committee, it was not expected that the Committee would proceed any further with the measure, in view of the Board's opposition.

MONTREAL, QUE.

THE Montreal Repertory Company is at last to have their own theatre, according to advices received this week. Arrangements have been made to lease a site from the City of Westmount, and an architect has been retained to draw up plans for the new house, which will be situated on Olivier Ave., through to Greene Ave., between Sherbrooke St. and Western Ave.

REGINA, SASK.

FAMOUS Players Canadian Corporation are planning to renovate the Capitol Theatre in this city in the early spring, according to Victor Armand, Winnipeg maintenance and purchasing supervisor for the company. A general overhauling of the theatre is contemplated, with improvements made in seating, sound equipment and decorations. It is expected that the proposed work will cost approximately $30,000.

GAUMONT-BRITISH TO BUILD IN CANADA?

"THE former Trenton Garage, Dundas Street, occupied at the present by Wright Motors, was purchased on Tuesday by the representative of an English film company. It is planned to remodel the building for a talking picture theatre.

Mayor Cory was most reticent about the name of the concern to purchase the building, something this paper does not condone in the public's interest. However, it is believed that British Gaumont are the new owners."

Reprinted from the Trenton, Ont., Courier-Advocate.

CORNWALL, ONT.

COSTING approximately $100,000, construction will begin April 1st on a new "de luxe" 1,000-seat theatre on Pitt Street, according to an announcement made by C. G. Markell, managing director of the Palace Amusement Co., of this city. In addition, in the east end of the city, on Montreal Road, construction will commence shortly after on a $50,000 theatre to seat approximately 600 persons. The "de luxe" house will be erected on a site almost directly opposite the present Palace Theatre. Among the many outstanding features planned for this luxury house, will be a "smoking mezzanine", to seat between 200 and 300 persons. The theatre will be equipped with the very latest advancements in sound apparatus, seating conveniences and comfort, and up-to-date decoration. The Palace Amusement Co. was founded 30 years ago by James Whitham, the present president of the concern. With an original investment of $500, he erected a small theatre in the town. By the time the two new theatres are completed, the company's total investment will approximate half a million dollars, with four theatres operating. Architect for the two new theatres is Murray Brown, Toronto.

KELOWNA, B.C.

MESSRS. R. WHILLIS, insurance and real estate agent, and W. A. C. Bennett, hardware merchant, have just purchased a property with 100-foot frontage on Bernard Avenue, for proposed erection of a new theatre to seat 1,200 persons. Estimated cost of the building, which will also house several stores on its Bernard Ave. frontage, is set at $75,000.

Fairweather In the Maritimes

By ALICE T. FAIRWEATHER

MRS. A. C. D. WILSON, a former member of the New Brunswick Board of Censors, has been re-elected Convener of Films and Printed Matter for the Saint John Local Council of Women. Mrs. Wilson's wide knowledge of both films and the drama make her a particularly excellent choice for this position which she has filled for a number of years.

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

THE Movie Men's bowling team is still active, and recently a staff team has been organized at Regal Films Limited. The members of the Exchange bowl regularly one afternoon a week after business hours. It is understood that the best strings are not always rolled by the masculine members of the team.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Spencer will leave shortly for their winter stay in Florida.

Mr. Bert Jeffreys of the United Artists Corporation Ltd., Montreal, has been in Saint John, N.B., for several days conferring with Charles Chaplin, Manager of the United Artists Corporation local office.

ROTHESAY, N.B.

RONALD FIELDING, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Fielding, of East Riverside, N.B., has been doing a lot of flying recently, and has been congratulated upon his splendid progress. He is a student at the Rothesay College for Boys. Mr. A. A. Fielding is General Manager of the F. G. Spencer Company Ltd.

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Washington Film Digest

By ROBERT LANSING

HARRY BRANDT, PRESIDENT ITO, INJECTS FIREWORKS INTO MPTO OF VIRGINIA CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., Feb. 13—(*CPS*)

ONE of the most interesting discussions of exhibitors' trade problems ever held here, took place last week at the fashionable Shoreham Hotel. The occasion was the Mid-Winter convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Virginia, who succeeded in bringing Harry Brandt, President of the Independent Theatre Owners Association down from New York to address them — and address them he did.

Brandt minced no words in laying the problems of the exhibitors down in cold biting phrases. The exhibitors are at the cross-roads, he said, and they will be put out of business if they do not put up a fight, he added. He said that the only reason for the depression at the box-office was the poor pictures being turned out of Hollywood today. The ITO chief declared the producers had not played fair with the exhibitors in the past, and said that when he was invited to attend the present trade reform conferences between the majors and exhibitors he went "with my tongue in my cheek". After seeing what they had tried to put over in the old NRA days here, Brandt said he could not believe they meant business this time.

Brandt said he believed, at this stage of the conferences, that he was wrong in that line of thought, and expressed the opinion that the majors are really trying to work out some kind of compromise agreement that will give the exhibitors a fair break.

The ITO prexy said his program did not call for legislation, as contrasted with that of Allied which calls for legal action. Referring to the pending New York equity suit Brandt said that "if the Government wins, both sides will lose". He declared that the trade practice program must include clauses against discrimination, eliminating blind-selling and most important of all the producers must guarantee that they will deliver "A" pictures when the exhibitor contracts for "A" pictures.

The convention was opened by William Crockett, President of the MPTO of Virginia, who was also in on the New York conferences, representing the exhibitors. Morton G. Thalhimer gave the delegates a legislative report and Col. Robert T. Barton, MPTO counsel, delivered his report and stated that the exhibitors would have to bear increased taxes and would not object to doing so if they were not singled out from other businesses.

Congressman Jennings Randolph of West Virginia formally welcomed the delegates to Washington.

ITO-ALLIED SPLIT

THAT there is a wide open split between Allied and the ITO was made evident by Brandt in the course of his talk and the answering of questions from the floor. The Digest correspondent does not believe he is violating any confidence or unnecessarily involving personalities in reporting Brandt's remarks on Allied and its leader — Abe Myers.

The ITO chief declared that "Abe Myers has no place in this business and I wouldn't follow him around the corner". He declared that Myers has no interests in the exhibitors other than to perpetuate his position, and that is why Myers is seeking legislation while the ITO and other groups want arbitration. He attacked Allied's legislative program stating that legislation is costly and does not accomplish the desired results. "If the producers and distributors are to be regulated then the exhibitors too must prepare for the same treatment," he said.

The ITO is opposed to the Neely block-booking bill, Brandt said, and declared that the only objection to block-booking would disappear if the producers supplied "A" pictures as called for in the contracts, instead of shoving "B" pictures into the higher classification. "This is one point on which we will not yield in the conferences," he said.

He warned the exhibitors that their demands on the producers and distributors must be reasonable or they will prefer to undergo the legislation. The exhibitors will get a fair break from Sidney Kent and William F. Rodgers, "but I wish I could say the same of the others," he declared.

EXHIBITORS VS. RADIO

DISCUSSING a subject which has come to a head within the past few days, Brandt stated that a showdown was coming between the producers and exhibitors over the question of movie stars appearing on the radio. "Radio has taken more out of this Industry than any other single factor," he said. Attacking the appearance of movie stars on the air in lavish programs, he said that this was a contributing factor to the box-office decline, and on Sunday nights when stars abound on the radio, the exhibitor suffers terribly, he added.

The results of this campaign are already beginning to be felt. Darryl F. Zanuck has already removed Tyrone Power from his radio series, and later it was announced that Ronald Colman was withdrawing from the radio. He dropped a series of 12 scheduled appearances. Most important of all in this development was the announcement of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer that it was cancelling its $20,000 weekly "Good News of 1939" radio series. This series featured practically all the outstanding M-G-M stars, and was one of the most objectionable to the exhibitors.

His big battle is with Cecil B. DeMille, Brandt said, who insists he has the right to put radio stars on the air as well as to make motion pictures. Brandt revealed he and his associates have a campaign all mapped out to combat stars on the air, but said he could not disclose the plan until he saw what steps producers would take to mollify the exhibitors.

Getting back to routine procedure after the stormy session, the MPTO of Virginia re-elected President William Crockett and all the other officers. They are Besjamin T. Pitts, Vice-President; Harold E. Wood, Secretary, and Sam Bendheim, Jr., Treasurer. The Board of Directors was also re-elected.

Pretty Madeleine Carroll was the guest of honor at the dinner given that night for the visiting delegates, and it fell upon her shoulders to send all home with a smile after hearing their problems thrashed out in no uncertain terms.

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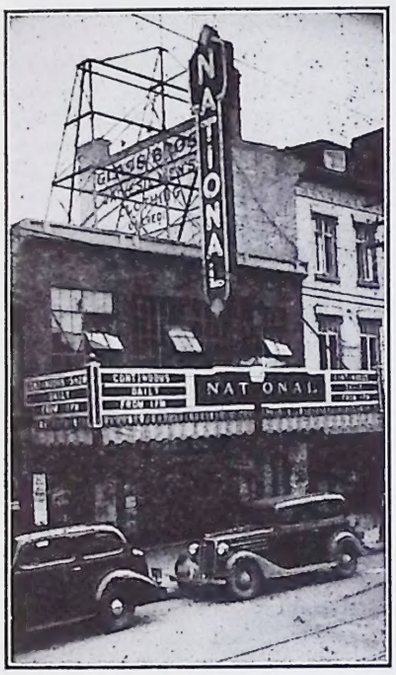

THE OLD NATIONAL

Formerly known as the National, the RIO Theatre, 373 Yonge St., Toronto, is an outstanding example of "What a difference a change can make". The V shape gives greater space for the interchangeable signs to advertise feature attractions which can be read at greater distances. The name at the point of the marquee is not cut off by other signs, as it stands out about 10' from the building. Reconditioned for grand opening, midnight, December 25th. Jay I. English, M.R.A.I.C., architect.

THE NEW RIO

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, 2094 DANFORTH AVE., TORONTO.

THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES

The incorporation of the name at the top of interchangeable signs provides an attractive set piece, and eliminates need of upright sign. The round marquee allows lengthy titles to be inserted in one line, and flush type silhouette letters, which can be readily changed, are easily read. Underneath, the marquee is illuminated by 100 watt lamps in mirror glass reflectors, which cut down current consumption and give greater luminosity.

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Digest Reviews and Previews

★★★ Excellent ★★ Very Good ★ Good • Fair or Poor

★ ★ ★

"MADE FOR EACH OTHER"

SELZNICK - U. A.

HERE is a picture that has all the elements necessary for spectacular box-office success. It contains more than the usual quota of comedy, drama, near-tragedy, and human interest, plus family appeal. It is acted to the hilt by a superb cast headed by Carole Lombard, who deserts the field of dizzy comedy for some very serious moments, and James Stewart, whose droll humour still scores, but who is also given some highly dramatic sequences. In addition there is Charles Coburn, who made such a hit in "Vivacious Lady", Lucille Watson, Donald Briggs, Harry Davenport, Alma Kurger, Louise Beavers, and Eddie Quillan, the latter also deserting the comedy ranks for the straight drama.

Direction is by John Cromwell, who builds up his suspense with masterful skill, and keeps his characters at a high pitch of excitement. His is an exceptionally fine job.

James Stewart, a young lawyer employed by Charles Coburn, passes up a semi-engagement with his boss's daughter, Ruth Weston, to marry Carole Lombard the same week-end he meets her. He takes her home to live with him and his mother, Lucille Watson, who resents her daughter-in-law's intrusion, and who promptly becomes the typical interfering mother-in-law.

Stewart is passed over for promotion in favor of Ruth Weston's new escort, Donald Briggs, and when a baby is born to Jimmy and Carole, the sledding gets pretty tough. Stewart, however, lacks self-confidence, and instead of getting a raise, is forced to take a cut. When it looks as if Jimmy and Carole are going to break-up, the baby catches pneumonia, and totters on the brink of death, his only chance being some serum which must be flown from Denver to New York. Jimmy goes hay-wire, wakes Coburn up in the middle of the night, and demands his aid. Coburn puts up the $5,000 to pay for the mercy flight, and Eddie Quillan, in a tensely exciting scene, undertakes the flight, despite forbidding storm conditions. The flight is successful, the baby recovers, and Jimmy is taken into the firm, gaining new confidence in himself.

The performances of Stewart and Miss Lombard are the best these two fine stars have given to date. Both in the comedy sequences and in the dramatic scenes, they are magnificent. Of

(*Continued on Next Page*)

"JAY L"

★ +

"OFF THE RECORD"

WARNER BROTHERS

AFTER a series of title changes, this picture emerged from the Burbank Studios of Warner Bros., an okay programmar, with some rather dramatic moments, and some well-placed comedy.

Joan Blondell, reporter on the newspaper Pat O'Brien works for, is always getting Pat into jams, due to her sympathy for the underdog. She marries O'Brien on one condition, the condition to be revealed after the ceremony. The condition turns out to be that the newly-weds are to make a home for Bobby Jordon, then in reform school due to an article Joan had written about gambler-gangster Douglas Dumbrille, and for which Alan Baxter and Bobby Jordon had taken the rap. O'Brien, furious at first, agrees, and Bobby comes to live with them. A tough kid, Bobby has a hard time adjusting himself to life in a decent home, but when O'Brien gets him a job as a news photographer, he buckles down. When his brother (Alan Baxter) breaks jail, Bobby is suspected of stealing jewels from Armand Kaliz, in order to give the money to Baxter, but it turns out that he only pawned his camera to raise the money. In a pistol fight between Dumbrille and Baxter, both are killed, and Bobby goes back to live with Pat and Joan.

O'Brien and Joan Blondell perform in their established manner. O'Brien as hard as nails on the surface, but underneath a heart of gold, and Blondell dizzy but nice. Bobby Jordon also keeps in the recognized groove as one of the original "Dead End" Kids, but softens towards the end.

James Flood directed, from the story by Saul Elkins and Sally Sandlin, adapted by Earl Baldwin, Niven Busch, Lawrence Kimble and Robert Buckner.

Running time—71 minutes.

★ ★ ★

"JESSE JAMES"

20th CENTURY - FOX

WITH a star-studded cast headed by Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, Nancy Kelly and Randolph Scott, "Jesse James" reaches the screen a worthy successor to such Darryl F. Zanuck successes as "Lloyds of London", "In Old Chicago" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band". For its principal character, the film has a personage who is as legendary in America as Robin Hood is in England, although there is a considerable difference between the two characters. Robin Hood was supposed to rob the rich to give to the poor, while Jesse James robbed the St. Louis Midland Railway Co. to avenge his mother's death, and the banks to give to Jesse James and his gang of desperadoes.

This is the second feature picture 20th Century-Fox has produced in Technicolor, the first, "Kentucky", receiving considerable acclaim.

Cast as the famous bandit, Jesse James, 20th Century-Fox's No. 1 male star, Tyrone Power, the recently crowned King of the Movies, does a most satisfactory job. He seems quite at home in the part, although it is doubtful if anyone could be as handsome as Mr. Power, and still be a bandit. As his brother, Frank, we have Henry Fonda, whom Mr. Zanuck has just signed to do two pictures annually for 20th Century-Fox. It may be recalled that Fonda came into prominence with 20th Century-Fox in the male lead in the ill-fated "The Farmer Takes A Wife". He now returns to home port. Nancy Kelly, who was starred with Richard Greene in "Submarine Patrol", proves herself a much finer actress in "Jesse James", than she was permitted to show in the former film, while the addition of Technicolor enhances her beauty considerably. Randolph Scott acquits himself very creditably, and seems to have quite recovered from the effects of "The Texans". Donald Meek, a sterling character actor, makes the most of his role as the rascally president of the St. Louis Midland, carrying a good deal of the comedy relief. Slim Summerville, a veteran trouper, makes the most of his small part as the jailer, and is responsible for some hearty laughs. Henry Hull, whom it is reported is being groomed to play the late Lon Chaney's roles, scores as Nancy Kelly's uncle, editor of the local newspaper, and whose editorials always start out "If there's ever to be

(*Continued on Next Page*)

Digest Reviews and Previews

PERSONAL MUSINGS

GORDON W. CALHOUN, who owns and operates the Capitol Theatre, Aylmer, Ont., returned last week from a month's holiday, spent aboard the Swedish-American liner, "Kungsholm", on a West Indies and South American cruise, taken in company with his friend Tom Pethick, of London. Among the many places of interest the boat visited, were St. Thomas, in the Virgin Islands; Martinique; Port of Spain, Trinidad; Caracas and LaGuara, Venezuela, the latter involving a side trip through the Andes; Curacao, Dutch West Indies; Panama Canal Zone; San Blas Bay, Cuba; Kingston, Jamaica; Havana, Cuba, returning from there to New York. Gord says the trip was most enjoyable, the only trouble being that he developed "hot dogs", otherwise known as "tropical feet", caused by the rapid change of temperature from these northern regions to the tropics.

Peter Z. Palmer, 23-year-old member of the traffic department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto, and a graduate of the Royal Military College at Kingston, has been engaged by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to act in an advisory capacity on the production, "Hands Across the Border", starring Robert Taylor and Robert Young. The film will centre around life at R.M.C., with the traditional hockey game between the Canadians and the cadets of West Point, a climax of the production. Palmer, during his term at R.M.C. starred in hockey and rugby, being elected captain of the hockey team during his last year at the Academy. When M-G-M cameramen visited the Academy for the closing exercises last year, to film atmosphere shots of the cadets on parade and at other activities, Palmer so impressed the movie men, that the present position was the outcome. He has been given a leave of absence by the CBC, and flew to Hollywood last week.

Gordon Carson, Manager of the Royal Theatre, Fort William, Ont., relived the days of his childhood recently, when he addressed the morning assembly of his old school, the Ft. William Vocational School.

The mild weather of last week and the early part of this week brought the out-of-town exhibitors to Toronto in droves. Among those we noticed around Dundas Square were A. Rappaport, Hollywood, Campbellford; W. G. Goodman, Brock, Whitby; L. H. Vicary, Princess, Orillia; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Sutherland, Lyric, St. Mary's, and points east; M. T. Craig, Palace, Ridgetown; A. M. Giaschi, Strand, Bracebridge, and his brother, Frank, of the King George, Huntsville — incidentally, friends will be glad to hear that Mrs. Frank Giaschi, who had such a long siege of sickness, is well on the road to recovery; Nick Trebish, Capitol, Meaford; Mrs. B. K. Moore, Moore's, Grimsby; "Bus" Stewart, Lyric, Hamilton; A. E. Rolston, Princess, Little Current, and Bill Stewart, Rex, London.

"Jay L."

"MADE FOR EACH OTHER"

(*Continued from Previous Page*)

the others, Coburn, Lucille Watson and Eddie Quillan are the stand-outs, each getting the utmost out of his or her respective part.

The birth scene, and the subsequent scenes with the baby as the centre of interest, are particularly good, and it is here that John Cromwell's direction will be most appreciated, and Jo Swerling's screenplay.

Due to the drastic change in roles by Miss Lombard, this film will enjoy an unusual amount of word-of-mouth advertising, the most potent kind known to theatre owners and managers. Advertise it as a family picture, and one that all newly-weds or couples contemplating the fatal plunge, should see. They'll thank you for the tip afterwards.

Running time—90 minutes.

"JESSE JAMES"

(*Continued from Previous Page*)

law and order in the West", and proceeds to tell who should be taken out and "shot down like dogs". In addition there is John Carradine as the traitorous Bob Ford, Brian Donlevy as Barshee, responsible for the death of the James boys' mother played by Jane Darwell, and at least twenty others, given screen credits.

Henry King, Darryl Zanuck's No. 1 director, handled the megaphone on this production, and it is a first rate job of direction.

The film in its initial engagements is showing ahead of "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in many spots. It is not necessary to add any recommendation to that.

Running time—105 minutes.

Conklin In Winnipeg

By J. J. CONKLIN

ED. RETALLICK, Manager of the Tivoli, Winnipeg's British production theatre, had a bit of promotion that drew hockey-loving youngsters to his theatre Saturday afternoons. He gave away Thornton Burgess story books to juveniles attending the Saturday matinees. When the set of 16 is secured and shown to Mr. Retallick, the youngster who has collected them may take his choice of a Chicago Black Hawks or Toronto Maple Leafs hockey emblem — the same as worn by these teams. The idea shows enterprise on the part of Mr. Retallick.

THE Manitoba Court of Appeal has granted special leave to two moving picture trade unions for an appeal to the Privy Council with respect to a strike picketing case tried last spring before Mr. Justice Taylor in King's Bench.

The leave to appeal was given to officers of Winnipeg Projectionists Local No. 8, and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada, Local 299.

At the trial hearing judgment for $1,000 was given to Rudolph Besler, proprietor of the Park Theatre in Winnipeg.

Besler claimed damages as the result of picketing of his business premises by members of the two unions in October, 1937. An injunction order was given to stop officers of the union from picketing the theatre.

ONE of the pioneer showmen of Calgary, Alta., Ernest Willis, 71, died in that city recently. He arrived in Calgary in 1905 and shortly afterwards opened the first motion picture theatre to be operated in that city, the Lyric.

BEULAH HUTTON, who at one time attended Stanley Jones public school and Crescent Heights high school in Calgary, Alta., has been given a role in one of the new Jones Family pictures.

About two and a half years ago Miss Hutton was under contract to a large Hollywood studio. Then her face was badly scarred in an automobile accident, and she was forced to take a job as stand-in for Virginia Field, Shirley Deane, and other players.

Recently a skillful operation removed the scars and she now looks forward to a new career in films.

"The Lady Vanishes" Bows Out of Eglinton, Toronto, After 6½ Week Engagement Playing to Approximately 70,000 Admissions, New All-Time High for Neighborhood House.

Old Digest Files Show History Does Repeat Itself

MOTION Pictures in the U.S. has reached such a stage of disagreement that it is a case today of "either this OR". The "OR" is significant, because it implies Government control. The United States Government has in its suit against the Motion Picture Industry, as cited in the "New York Case" apparently resolved to divorce without any subterfuge or argument the production and distribution of motion pictures from exhibition. The Assistant Attorney-General, Thurman W. Arnold, in charge of the film action announced an "agreement" with the major distributor-producers concerning further theatre expansion until the New York case has been decided.

Speaking before the Economic Society of New York, in answer to the question, "How Far Should Government Control Business?" the Assistant Attorney-General of the United States said, "The conception of business affected by a public interest gives us room in our system for government regulated monopoly. Competition requires a referee, and business should accept an independent judiciary as such a referee to preserve competition rather than to drift into combinations which in the long run can only end in positive government control." The implication is that without such a referee, "men who form gangs" are bound to win in competition.

"The chain gang" is a familiar one in Canada and a search of our records could show some of its machinations.

"The preventive enforcement of the anti-trust laws", said the Assistant Attorney-General, "lies in criminal prosecution. The Department will not suggest consent decrees, but will submit to the Court any plan voluntarily offered by the defendants in an anti-trust proceeding which furthers the efficiency or orderly marketing conditions, or which may be necessary to avoid extreme economic dislocation, to obtain a decision on its legality."

THERE is trouble brewing in British Columbia, we repeat this statement because New York is some distance away from this province of our Dominion and the hearing may not be good. There will be trouble in any and every of the provinces if product is withheld from exhibitors because of the fear of offending a Film Dictator here. There is trouble ahead on "clearance", "protection" — call it by any other name it will not smell sweeter — if exhibitors do not get a chance to buy product before this product is six months, or a year or two old.

After the first year, product is rated at $1.00 on the books of a company. How does this coincide with playing time, when many exhibitors can only get their chance to play pictures when they are a year old?

We have some brilliant economists in the Film Trade. The old-timers were not so good on figures, they were better on showmanship, they were easier to make a deal with. Our leaders have had the advantages of long training, of financial and business contacts which should give them plenty of sound ideas as to equitable and profitable film trading. The only people who make money out of a lawsuit, win or lose, are the solicitors and counsel, or someone behind the scenes making trouble for the purpose of making a "haul".

LET us turn a few pages back and see how "History Does Repeat Itself". The Minority Shareholders action covering Famous Players - Paramount-Publix as of 1930 is now getting into action again in 1939. What is back of this? The control of the company. Same then, same now.

At a meeting July 26th of the M.P.T.O.A. we note a clause to be rubber stamped onto contracts — "The exhibitor agrees not to exhibit or permit the exhibition of more than one of the feature photoplays specified in the schedule hereof or any other motion picture subject exceeding three reels in length at any performance." It appears that this clause was in a contract which Mr. Matheson, accountant for Duncanson & White, Tivoli Theatre, had.

There was a motion by Harry Alexander, seconded by S. Lester, that the question of double bills be tabled for further consideration. There was an amendment to this motion by Roy O'Connor that the question of double bills be taken up at the next general meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fine and carried after much spirited discussion.

Feb. 26th, 1926, the stationery of the M.P.T.O.A. presents the following officers: President, J. C. Brady; Vice-President, Roy O'Connor; Board of Directors: H. Alexander, Chairman of the Board, H. Ginsler, S. Bloom, G. Lester, C. Rottenberg, S. Major, A. Polakoff, S. Fine, S. Lent. The Grievance and Arbitration Board: J. C. Brady, S. Major, H. Alexander, J. Cohen. The Treasurer is J. Cohen. The Secretary, Ray Lewis. The headquarters, Fifth Floor, Hermant Bldg. Also we note on the stationery, "address communications to Canadian Moving Picture Digest, 259 Spadina Ave. Phone Trinity 1481."

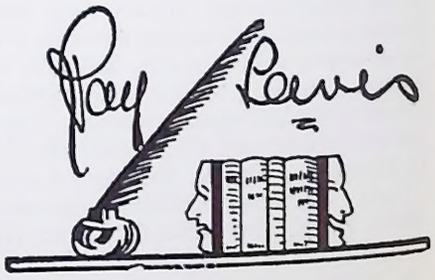
NAT TAYLOR was then doing clerical work, for we find a letter addressed to Ray Lewis from him as follows: *"Dear Miss Lewis: Enclosed you will find a complete list of the members of the M.P.T.O.A. of Toronto. As you will note I have classified them. I might point out here that only yesterday I added two to that list which I hope and, indeed, am certain will grow a great deal as time goes on. I will notify you of any additions as soon as I get them. Thank you. With best wishes, signed, Nat Taylor."*

History may repeat itself, and Taylor may again be polite and may again thank Ray Lewis for favours received. Meanwhile, will he tell his girl-friend, Stella, that there has not been a Queen's Garden Party since Queen Victoria's reign. It is always The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Dear me, these Americans!

Editorial

(*Continued from Page* 3)

The Royal Family has made selections of films for private screenings; and because of Royal Interest our Industry has had throughout its history the co-operation of the highest representatives of our respective Governments.



Lincoln's Birthday Holiday Aids "Idiot's Delight" to Exceptional $40,000, Second Week, Capitol, N.Y. Goes Third.

Shooting the Stars

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER has purchased a story by John Larkin and Jerry Horwin called "THEY CALL IT GLAMOUR", a dramatic expose of the life of the professional glamour girl; ROBERT TAYLOR and HEDY LAMARR will be starred in the picture, which will be produced by JOHN CONSIDINE . . . a dozen American Indians have been imported from the Browning Reservation for Blackfeet Indians in Montana, to appear with SHIRLEY TEMPLE in her latest 20th CENTURY-FOX starring picture, "SUSANNAH OF THE MOUNTIES"; others in the case will include Randolph Scott, Margaret Lockwood and J. Farrell MacDonald . . . JEAN ARTHUR was yesterday assigned to one of the outstanding roles of the year — that of the feminine lead in the FRANK CAPRA production of "MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON" (temp. title); it is understood that COLUMBIA is negotiating for the loan of GARY COOPER for the title role, thus re-uniting the triumvirate responsible for the success of "Mr. Deeds Goes To Town" . . . GEORGE BRENT will be BETTE DAVIS'S leading man again in "THE OLD MAID", WARNER BROS.' screen version of the Zoe Akins Pulitzer Prize play; MIRIAM HOPKINS is also to be co-starred in the production . . . JOHN FARROW, who recently completed "THE SAINT STRIKES BACK" for RKO RADIO, has been called back to that studio to direct ANNE SHIRLEY and JAMES ELLISON in "SORORITY HOUSE", soon to go before the cameras . . . utilizing a large cast of unknown players who will get their first screen opportunity, SAMUEL GOLDWYN announced yesterday the preparation for UNITED ARTISTS' release of a new film, "THIRTEEN GO FLYING", based on the recent crash of the British flying boat, "Cavalier" . . BUSBY BERKELEY, creator of glamorous dance spectacles for the screen, who recently made his debut as a dramatic director with Warners' "They Made Me a Criminal", has been assigned by M-G-M to direct MICKEY ROONEY and JUDY GARLAND in "BABES IN ARMS", screen version of the DICK RODGERS-LARRY HART musical success . . . GEORGE O'BRIEN has been signed to a new term contract by PANDRO S. BERMAN, vice-president in charge of RKO RADIO production . . . WARNER BROS. has given a new long-term contract to WILLIAM KEIGHLEY as a reward for the handsome job of direction he has done with "YES, MY DARLING DAUGHTER" . . . JOAN BLONDELL has been signed to a long term contract by COLUMBIA, and has been assigned the top role opposite MELVYN DOUGLAS in "GOOD GIRLS GO TO PARIS", to be directed by ALEXANDER HALL . . . LOUIS HAYWARD will play the dual roles of Louis XIV and his twin brother, Philippe, in the EDWARD SMALL-U.A. production of "THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK", opposite Hayward will be seen JOAN BENNETT, who will retain the dark wig she wore so successfully in "TRADE WINDS" . . . ELSA MAXWELL, world-famous as a society hostess, has been signed by DARRYL F. ZANUCK to make her screen debut in a 20th CENTURY-FOX picture, to be known as "ELSA MAXWELL'S 'HOTEL FOR WOMEN'".

Robert Taylor, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, currently appearing with Wallace Beery in "Stand Up and Fight".

Trans-Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL
"Jesse James" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda and Nancy Kelly.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "Sweethearts" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy.

SHEA'S
"Youth Takes A Fling" (Universal), starring Joel McCrea and Andrea Leeds. Also stage show.

TIVOLI
"Angels With Dirty Faces" (Warners), starring James Cagney and Pat O'Brien, and "There's That Woman Again" (Columbia), starring Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce.

UPTOWN
"Moonlight Sonata" (British), starring Ignace Paderewski.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Paris Honeymoon" (Paramount), starring Bing Crosby and Franciska Gaal, and "Dark Journey" (London Films), starring Conrad Veidt and Vivien Leigh.

LOEW'S
"Ride a Crooked Mile" (Paramount), starring Akim Tamiroff. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
"Made For Each Other" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart.

PALACE
"Jesse James" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda and Nancy Kelly.

PRINCESS
"The Lady Vanishes" (G-B), starring Paul Lukas and Dame May Whitty, and "Burn 'Em Up O'Connor" (M-G-M), with Dennis O'Keefe and Cecilia Parker.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"The Beachcomber" (Paramount), starring Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester.

EMPIRE
"Stella Dallas" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Barbara Stanwyck and John Boles and "The Beloved Vagabond" (British), starring Maurice Chevalier.

MAYFAIR
"Boys Town" (M-G-M), starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, and "Next Time I Marry" (RKO Radio), starring Lucille Ball.

STRAND
"Four Daughters" (Warners), starring John Garfield, Jeffrey Lynn, Priscilla, Rosemary and Lola Lane, Claude Rains, May Robson and Gale Page.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Jesse James" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda and Nancy Kelly.

GAIETY
"Girls' School" (Columbia), starring Anne Shirley, Nan Grey and Ralph Bellamy, and "I Am the Law" (Columbia), starring Edward G. Robinson.

GARRICK
2nd week. "The Cowboy and the Lady" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon.

LYCEUM
"Dramatic School" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer and Paulette Goddard, and "Next Time I Marry" (RKO Radio), starring Lucille Ball.

RIALTO
"Blockade" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Madeleine Carroll and Henry Fonda, and "Daughter of Shanghai" (Paramount), with Anna May Wong.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"The Dawn Patrol" (Warners), starring Errol Flynn.

PALACE
"Zaza" (Paramount), starring Claudette Colbert and Herbert Marshall.

STRAND
"Valley of the Giants" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris and Claire Trevor, and "Keep Smiling" (20th Century-Fox), starring Jane Withers.

VARIETY
"The Girl of the Golden West" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, and "White Banners" (Warners), starring Claude Rains, Fay Bainter, Jackie Cooper and Bonita Granville.

VANCOUVER

BEACON
"Strange Faces" (Universal), with Dorothea Kent and Frank Jenks, and "Shadows Over Shanghai" (Universal), with James Dunn. Also stage show.

DUNBAR
"Farewell to Arms" (Paramount reissue), starring Gary Cooper and Helen Hayes, and "No Time to Marry" (Columbia), with Mary Astor and Richard Arlen.

KINGSWAY
"The Crowd Roars" (M-G-M), starring Robert Taylor and Maureen O'Sullivan, and "Under Cover of Night" (M-G-M).

PLAZA
"Topper Takes a Trip" (Hal Roach-U.A.), starring Constance Bennett and Roland Young.

Last Call!

TO EXHIBITORS WHO HAVE NOT YET PLAYED IT!

WALT DISNEY'S

"SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS"

WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION

APRIL 29TH!

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL RKO RADIO EXCHANGE IMMEDIATELY!